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Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations: cooperation between the United Nations and the Commonwealth of Independent States

Letter dated 29 August 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Kyrgyzstan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to submit to you a declaration by the Heads of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) member States on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of CIS, signed on 16 September 2016 in Bishkek during the summit of CIS countries (see annex).

As Kyrgyzstan was the CIS Chair country in 2016, I would be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be issued as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 126 (y).

(*Signed*) Mirgul **Moldoisaeva**
Permanent Representative of Kyrgyzstan to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 29 August 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Kyrgyzstan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Russian]

Commonwealth of Independent States

Council of Heads of State

Decision of 16 September 2016 concerning the Declaration by the Heads of State of the States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States in connection with the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Commonwealth of Independent States

Bishkek

The Council of Heads of State of the Commonwealth of Independent States has decided:

1. To adopt the Declaration by the Heads of State of the States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) in connection with the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Commonwealth of Independent States (see annex).

2. To disseminate the text of this Declaration in the media of CIS member States.

3. To entrust the Kyrgyz Republic, as the State holding the presidency of the Commonwealth of Independent States, with circulating the text of the aforementioned statement at the United Nations and other international organizations.

On behalf of the Kyrgyz Republic
A. Atambaev

On behalf of the Republic of Armenia
S. Sargsyan

On behalf of the Republic of Azerbaijan
I. Aliyev
with a dissenting opinion

On behalf of the Republic of Belarus
A. Lukashenko

On behalf of the Republic of Kazakhstan
N. Nazarbayev

On behalf of the Republic of Moldova
P. Filip
Prime Minister
with a dissenting opinion

On behalf of the Republic of Tajikistan
E. Rahmon

On behalf of the Republic of Uzbekistan
A. Kamilov
Minister for Foreign Affairs

On behalf of the Russian Federation
V. Putin

On behalf of Turkmenistan
G. Berdimuhamedov

On behalf of Ukraine

Declaration by the Heads of State of the States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States in connection with the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Commonwealth of Independent States

We, the Heads of State of the States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), in adopting this Declaration expressing appreciation for the activities of CIS over the past 25 years, make the following statement.

A quarter of a century ago, the Agreement establishing the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Alma-Ata Declaration were signed. CIS, which was formed during a period of major geopolitical change, has since then helped to tackle extremely complex issues and contributed to the development of equal political dialogue and to the establishment, on new foundations, of a mechanism for trade and economic cooperation, humanitarian partnership and cooperation in security matters.

Over time, CIS has become a unique and universal organization like no other. CIS has taken on a crucial and constructive role in the system of international relations as a result of its underlying principles of mutual trust and equity, consideration of the interests of other member States and recognition of the right of each to choose its own development model.

Representing its region as an international organization with a broad membership and mandate to coordinate multifaceted intergovernmental cooperation, CIS has become a useful and fundamental platform for achieving integration at various levels and speeds for the parties concerned.

We are strongly committed to the universally recognized principles and norms of international law, the Charter of the United Nations, and also to the goals and objectives contained in the CIS Concept for Further Development, and we believe that there is a need to connect all existing and new areas of cooperation in a mutually beneficial way.

The practice established over the years of our collaboration of supporting each other's initiatives in international bodies has been proof of the authenticity of our partnership and has demonstrated the effectiveness of a collective approach to promoting the mutually beneficial interests of CIS States in international forums.

Reaffirming our common aspiration to build competitive national economies and steadfastly improve the well-being of member States' citizens, we intend to increase cooperation in economic, financial, energy, transport and other fields and to continue to strive to set standards for the free movement of goods and services throughout the CIS region. In this regard, we appreciate the implementation of the Treaty on a Free Trade Area, which is instrumental in bringing about closer collaboration that is capable of producing the greatest possible economic impact.

Considering that deepening humanitarian relations is a key factor in sustainable development, in future we will continue in every way possible to fully support mutually enriching dialogue among cultures and to enhance partnerships in education, science, health care, migration, information, youth cooperation, physical culture, sport and tourism.

The development of relationships and mutually beneficial cooperation with other regional and international organizations, especially within the United Nations system, is important for resolving the challenges faced by CIS.

We note with concern that in various regions of the world there are still serious hotbeds of instability with a tendency to spread further afield and increase in intensity. We express our collective determination to tailor cooperation within CIS

to preventing and effectively countering current challenges and threats, and we confirm our readiness to work with interested States and international organizations, with the United Nations playing a central role.

In view of the rapid succession of events in the world, the complicated international situation and the growing challenges and threats to the international community, we express our interest in adapting CIS to the realities of today. This should result in CIS being more effective and having greater authority on the international stage and strengthen integration between its member States.

Reaffirming our commitment to the principle of continuity, with the aim in the future of building on the 25-year experience of CIS and increasing the current level of multilateral cooperation between member States, and viewing CIS as the main platform for dialogue and interaction between our countries, we express our intention to cooperate more effectively with the aim of achieving peace, good-neighbourliness and progress throughout the CIS region.

Dissenting opinion of the Republic of Azerbaijan

Regarding the second paragraph of the Decision of the Council of Heads of State of the Commonwealth of Independent States concerning the Declaration by the Heads of State of the States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States in connection with the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Commonwealth of Independent States:

The Republic of Azerbaijan does not recognize the international legal personality of CIS and its bodies, or their relations with international entities.

The Republic of Azerbaijan views intergovernmental cooperation within CIS as taking place among interested States and does not accept the aims for the economic and political integration of an association of CIS member States.

The Republic of Azerbaijan considers acts of aggression by one CIS member State against another to be unacceptable.

The Republic of Azerbaijan believes that in addition to collaboration on security, crime prevention, the maintenance and strengthening of international security and stability and the countering of new challenges and threats, measures must also be taken against separatism, which is the main cause of armed conflicts.

Given the ineffectiveness of the work of CIS in settling armed conflicts in CIS member States, the Republic of Azerbaijan considers an important condition for the organization's development to be the swift settlement of existing armed conflicts on the basis of sovereignty, territorial integrity and the integrity of State borders.

The Republic of Azerbaijan is not a party to the Treaty on a Free Trade Area of 18 October 2011.

I. **Aliyev**
President of the Republic of Azerbaijan

Dissenting opinion of the Republic of Moldova

While it has signed the Declaration by the Heads of State of the States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States in connection with the twenty-fifth anniversary of CIS, the Republic of Moldova at the same time considers that the document does not fully and objectively reflect problems which have emerged over that period of time as regards the development of cooperation

within the organization and it does not inspire confidence about the prospects of the organization becoming more effective in its work.

Unfortunately, we cannot help but notice that CIS has not managed to fully implement the objectives of establishing a free trade zone, preventing the emergence of conflicts within the region and helping to resolve them, and finding solutions to other urgent issues facing CIS.

Nevertheless, the Republic of Moldova confirms its interest in further participation in the work of CIS and in enhancing the effectiveness of cooperation within the organization.

P. Filip
Prime Minister of the Republic of Moldova